Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol 12, No. 17 TORONTO, APRIL 23, 1947 $2.00 Per Annum

Business Down In Nova Scotia

Three Drive-Ins Are In Prospect

The list of projected Canadian motion picture theatres continues to increase as news of building intentions become public. One theatre, the 246-seat Theatre Holding Corporation unit in Red Rock, Ontario, opened its doors recently, while plans for

(Continued on Page 6)

PRC-UK Pix Get Press Ad Boosts

Anglo-American releases from British picture studios, distributed in the Dominion by Producers Releasing Corporation, will receive powerful publicity support prior to exhibition through advertising in leading national magazines. The J. Wal-

(Continued on Page 2)

Fiscal Year Report Of Doane Shows Patronage Decline

Attendance in Nova Scotia's 64-or-so motion picture theatres by those paying regular admission prices was 11,-101,696 during the fiscal year which ended on November 30, 1946, a decrease of 971,970, according to the annual report of S. A. Doane, chairman of the Board of Censors, to the Provincial Legislature. The board is a section of the Treasury Department, of which Premier A. L. MacDonald is the senior officer.

In addition 1,124,121 children's admissions were recorded on Saturday afternoon and statutory holiday performances at which no tickets were used.

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Alec Meyers Now Film Lab Supt.

Superintendent of Film Laboratories of Canada is now Alec Meyers, who has complete charge of the activities of that organization. He fills the spot made vacant by the resignation of William Risewick, who departed after 15 years with the company to join Shelly Films as lab chief in plant near Toronto.

Meyers is a long-time employee of Film Laboratories, having left it during the war to lend his services to the National Film Board. He's a brother of Famous Players' Bob and Warners' Pete.

Nat'l Censorship Asked In Britain

A national censorship board "in the hands of a body independent of the trade and of trade influence" has been suggested for Great Britain by a joint conference in London of municipal, county and teachers' associations. A letter to the Rt. Hon. G. Tom-

(Continued on Page 6)

BC Film Amendment

An amendment to the Motion Picture Act that would have provided for classifying films for all ages was defeated in the British Columbia Legislature.

Record Year Rung Up By Famous Players

The year 1946 was an unprecedented one financially for Famous Players Canadian Corporation, the company having earned a record profit of $2,834,956.51, stated J. J. Fitzgibbons, president, in his annual report to the shareholders. That figure remained after $2,135,000 was paid for income and excess profits tax.

The profit represents $1.63 a share on 1,737,072 shares of common stock outstanding. In 1945 the total was $1,594,973 or 91 cents per share on the basis of the present capitalization. The company debt of $5,500,000 was

(Continued on Page 2)

'Samson And Delilah'

Cecil B. DeMille's next production will be the biblical story, "Samson and Delilah."

NFB Short To Astral

"Stars of Tomorrow," National Film Board short now in preparation, will be distributed in Canada by Astral Films.

United Amusement's Profits Up In '46

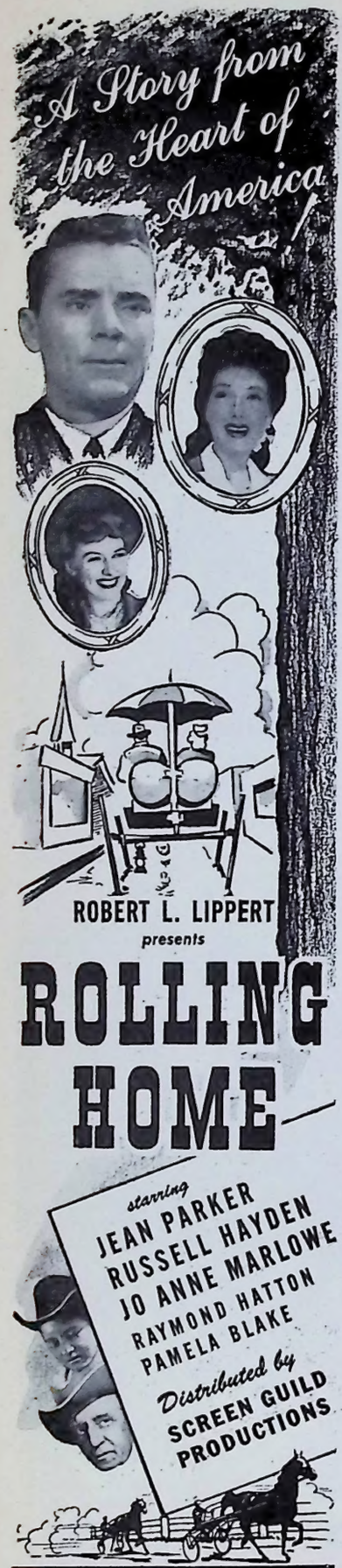
United Amusement Corporation Limited reported net profits of $254,889 for 1946, equal to $3.15 a share. Net profits for 1945 were $140,673 or $1.73 a share. For the same period the working capital amounted to $467,692 as compared with $530,158 in 1945.

In Friendlier Days

Principals in a possible court action over Canadian distribution rights to certain films are pictured here. Paul Nathanson (left) and J. Arthur Rank, partners in Odeon Theatres of Canada at the time, are shown shaking hands at the inauguration of children's movie clubs during the latter's visit in June, 1945. During his forthcoming visit to this continent Rank will address the Empire Club in Toronto on May 19th and the Canadian Club in Vancouver something like a week later.

Capac Sues

Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, Limited, has issued a writ at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, against Otto C. Polenske, Fort Frances, Ontario, exhibitor. The association asks $1,000 damages and an injunction for claimed copyright infringements resulting from unauthorized use of music composed by clients of CAPAC.



BRANCH OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY!

RELEASED IN CANADA BY PRC

Record Year Rung Up By Famous Players

(Continued from Page 1)

paid off through the sale earlier of 750,000 shares of new common stock to the public and 70,500 to officers of the corporation, following the division of the common stock on the basis of three new for one old.

Operating profits of $5,599,284 compares with $5,123,790 in 1945, while dividends received were $330,968, against $238,906. Depreciation absorbed $680,252, against $699,605, while income and excess profits taxes of $2,135,000 compare with $2,713,000, excluding refundable portion, in 1945. After dividends of $1,138,550 and an addition of $1,867,441 adjustment arising chiefly from determination of standard profits, earned surplus as of Dec. 28, 1946, amounted to $11,362,113 against $7,798,266 a year ago.

Current assets as of Dec. 28, 1946, totalled $8,456,242 and current liabilities $471,814, indicating net working capital of $7,884,428, against $2,544,192 as of Dec. 29, 1945.

Expenditures on existing theatres and construction of new theatres was limited during the year by the shortage of labor and materials and by the desire to postpone capital expenditures where possible because of existing conditions. Famous Players and associates now have under construction 10 new theatres and others are projected for Chilliwack and Kelowna, BC; Port Arthur, Peterboro and Toronto, Ontario; Rouyn, Quebec; Saint John, NB; and New Waterford, NS.

Employee relations were harmonious, Fitzgibbons stated, with greater benefits for workers and their dependents having resulted from establishment during 1946 of a hospital and surgical plan. The Famous Players 25 Year Club, in which membership brings privileges, now numbers 89.

Tribute was paid by the president to associates, officers, members of the head office staff, theatre managers, employees generally and to Paramount Pictures, Inc. He thanked them for their "inestimable value" to the firm.

The directors and officers listed in the report are J. J. Fitzgibbons, CBE, president; R. W. Bolstad, vice-president; and Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures, Inc., New York; Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, KC, Vancouver, a member of the Senate; H. P. Robinson, LL.D., Saint John, president of the New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited; Austin C. Keough, New York, vice-president of Paramount Pictures, Inc.; Angus MacCunn, Toronto; Noel Barrow, Toronto; George Weltner, New York, president of Paramount International Films, Inc.; and N. S. Robertson, KC, Toronto, president of the North American Life Assurance Co.

Assistant secretaries are L. G. Geering and J. A. Troyer, and assistant treasurers, W. E. Kerr and A. MacCunn.

PRC-UK Pix Get Press Ad Boosts

(Continued from Page 1)

ter Thompson advertising agency, outstanding in the field, will handle the campaign for PRC. This type of publicity and promotion, though not new in Canada, is of recent origin and has been conducted by few companies, among them Eagle-Lion, RKO and Universal.

"Murder in Reverse," starring William Hartnell and Chili Bouchier, will be pre-sold through Time, Liberty and New World magazines in May to coincide with the Canadian premiere at Toronto's Victoria and Capitol.

Ads for "Laughing Lady," starring Anne Zeigler, Francis L. Sullivan, Peter Graves, and Canadian Paul Dupuis, will appear in the June and July issues of Maclean's, Canadian Home Journal, National Home Monthly, Chatelaine, as well as in Liberty, Time and New World, simultaneously with the Canadian premiere showing at Toronto's Tivoli and Eglinton.

Press books on the British product, containing specially designed ads, posters and lobbies for Canadian exhibitors, are being prepared by PRC's newly established publicity department.

S. A. DOANE

Chief Censor of Nova Scotia, whose annual report revealed that admissions had decreased in that province.

Para's 'Web Of Days' Goddard Starrer

"Web of Days," a first novel by Edna Lee regarded as one of the most important stories scheduled for publication this year, has been purchased by Paramount as a starring vehicle for Paulette Goddard.

Miss Lee is a newspaper writer in Atlanta, Georgia, home of Margaret Mitchell. Like Miss Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind," Miss Lee's story is set in Georgia and is a tale of conflict on a plantation after the Civil War.

Attendance Drop In Nova Scotia

(Continued from Page 1)

The number of admissions to places of amusement in the Atlantic province was 13,510,357 compared with 14,050,000 during the previous 12-month period. Of the total all but 1,284,540 attended motion picture exhibitions. Motion picture theatres yielded $294,009.32 in amusement taxes and other places $56,987.66.

Despite the decline in attendance the total income of the Board of Censors was $421,605.19, an increase of $6,312.50 over last year. Screening of films yielded $20,140.50 and Parimutuels paid $19,732.30. Other sources of revenue were fees, licenses and taxes.

A total of 2,455 film subjects were submitted for censorship, 379 more than last year. Three features were rejected and 14 others suffered cuts in scenes or dialogue. Thirty subjects were marked "not suitable for children." There were 579 features submitted for inspection.

Film Weekly

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol 12, No. 17 | REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK | $2.00 Per Annum

Ladies' Man

with Eddie Bracken, Cass Daley

Paramount 91 Mins.

DIVERTING COMEDY OFFERING HAS A NUMBER OF NOVELTIES TO SET PLOT OFF.

Four or five times in the proceedings of this tale, Cass Daley and Spike Jones and his City Slickers become involved in the shennanigans. They give it considerable comic relief. And that's a good thing, too. The latter bang out their well known "Holiday for Strings" and "Cocktails for Two." Miss Daley is a hilarious session all by herself. Bracken, Virginia Welles and Virginia Field carry the weight of the story. They lug it around and deposit it in the proper niches.

Unrequited love stabs Bracken out in Oklahoma. But the same day an oil well comes in on his farm. With 50 grand in his poke he comes to Gotham to have a look-see at the sights. He is through with women. He has his dog, his true friend. . . Before he gets around to the sights he meets up with Miss Welles who is holding forth with a street broadcast. Bracken says his piece. Miss Welles, something of a scatterbrain, tells the listening audience—women—that the lucky box top will get a date with Bracken. She passes him off as a millionaire.

Immediately there's a flurry by the females. Cass Daley "wins" Bracken. This theme develops and so does romance between Bracken and Miss Welles. Meanwhile Miss Field is conniving to separate Oklahoma from his dough. The boy meets girl gimmick is given the whirl. He loses her and then finds her again. In the process, misunderstanding turns to revelation. Then comes retribution. Lastly, Bracken and Miss Welles are seen arm-in-arming it in Central Park.

The doings are diverting generally. Daniel Dare's production is in keeping with various levels of the story and William D. Russell's direction achieves the lightness indicated.

CAST: Eddie Bracken, Cass Daley, Virginia Welles, Spike Jones and his City Slickers, Johnny Coy, Virginia Fields.

CREDITS: Producer, Daniel Dare; Director, William D. Russell; Screenplay by Edmund Beloin, Jack Rose, Lewis Meltzer; Based on a story by William Bowers, Robinson Holbert; Cameraman, Stuart Thompson.

DIRECTION, Effective. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

'Susie' Completed

Eddie Cantor's "If You Knew Susie" has finished shooting.

It Happened in Brooklyn

with Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson, Jimmy Durante.

MGM 105 Mins.

SOCK SINATRA, GEORGEOUS GRAYSON, DROLL DURANTE: ALL ADD TO A GOOD BO BET.

A possible "natural" in the line of title appeal and connotation, this one also has quite a cast to boost it along, not that any boosting is indicated, for it skips along with gaiety, merriment, song, romance and the general light touch.

First there's Sinatra. Read that boxoffice. Kathryn Grayson is an optical delight and she gets off a few operatic numbers, including the "Bell Song" from "Lakme." Sinatra, too, has his vocal moments. His fans will be amply rewarded. Durante totes the burden of funny man. He is not lacking. Peter Lawford does an effective job.

The narrative comes to Brooklyn after a brief sojourn in England to establish Lawford in the plot. Sinatra is a returned veteran. Having no family he stays with his old pal, Durante, custodian in New Utrecht High School where Miss Grayson is the music teacher. A cop, exiled from New York, arranged a prior meeting so they are not complete strangers.

Sinatra and Miss Grayson are a pair of disillusioned singers with great ambition but something lacking in spirit. They try to bolster each other's morale but fail until Lawford arrives on the scene from England. He is from titled folk.

Lawford has a song. Sinatra spurred, gets a job in a music shop. First thing it's romance between the British cousin and the girl. Sinatra and Miss Grayson sponsor a poor youngster in a debut. They are aided by youthful enthusiasm of school-children, the police and the civic pride of the borough.

The youth's recital comes off. It is a success. Sinatra is enlightened about love by Durante, further brought up by Lawford. In the course of events Miss Grayson and Lawford clinch. Sinatra remembers pertinent "details" about an Army nurse.

CAST: Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson, Jimmy Durante, Peter Lawford, Gloria Grahame, Marcy McGuire.

CREDITS: Producer, Jack Cummings; Director, Richard Whorf; Screenplay by Isobel Lennart; Based on an original story by John McGowan; Cameraman, Robert Planck.

DIRECTION, First Rate. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Birthday Greetings to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth!

'HEIR TO THE THRONE'

is a special film depicting the life of Princess Elizabeth with highlights of her crowded youth.

A Scoop From

ASTRAL FILMS

—NOW BOOKING—

Deception

with Bette Davis, Claude Rains, Paul Henreid

Warner Brothers 112 Mins.

TRIANGLE DRAMA EMINENTLY SUITED TO THE DAVIS TALENTS; RAINS A STANDOUT.

The well known three-cornered plan for dramatic situation, involvement, unfoldment and tragic consequence is offered in this version of Louis Verneuil's play and it is played to ultimate satisfactory acceptance by the audience.

Bette Davis handles her role with ease, finish. Claude Rains easily triumphs in his part as a musical genius, a gourmet, bon vivant and insanely jealous former lover. Henreid fills the requirements as a confused victim of Miss Davis' former life which she never reveals truthfully but withal marries him and leads him to depths of unbelief.

Set in New York music circles the story brings Henreid and Miss Davis together at a concert following the war. Henreid has had a hard time of it in Europe. He is making his way as a concert cellist. He marries Miss Davis and immediately the Machiavellian influence of Rains is sifted into the plot.

Rains previously was Miss Davis' mentor and Svengali. He does not like the marriage. In his subtle way he introduces one element and another to cause Henreid consternation. Meanwhile he is deaf to Miss Davis who wants her husband to have a chance.

Rains writes a cello concerto and plans to have Henreid play the solo part. There are rehearsals. Following one preliminary session, Rains lets drop to Miss Davis the information he will inform Henreid of the true nature of his former relations with her.

The night of the big concert Miss Davis visits Rains at his home. They have it out. Rains is adamant in his scheme to tell Henreid. Miss Davis kills him. Later, after Henreid triumphs, she goes to the police.

The music is splendid and the special orchestral number will be fancied by the serious music minded.

CAST: Bette Davis, Claude Rains, Paul Henreid, John Abbott, Benson Fong.

CREDITS: Produced by Henry Blanke; Director, Irving Rapper; Screenplay by John Collier and Joseph Than; Based on a play by Louis Verneuil; Cameraman, Ernest Haller.

DIRECTION, Very good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

In a year of high-budget, high-
BIG AS THE BIG
RA
with
PRESTON FOSTER · ARLEEN WHELAN · CHARLIE RUGGLES
Screenplay by Jack Moffitt, Graham Baker and Cecile Kramer • From the N
and Saturday Evening Post Serial by Luke Short • Music by Victor Y

grossing outdoor big ones

ENTERPRISE

presents

JOEL McCREA
VERONICA LAKE
DONALD CRISP
DON DeFORE

in

RAMROD

JOEL McCREA
The Ramrod!

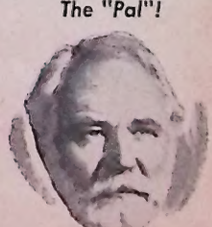
VERONICA LAKE
The Deceiver!

DONALD CRISP
The Law!

DON DeFORE
The Killer?

PRESTON FOSTER
The Trouble!

ARLEEN WHELAN
The "Pal"!



CHARLIE RUGGLES
The Land Baron!

Directed by ANDRE de TOTH · A HARRY SHERMAN Production ***ENTERPRISE Releases thru*** UA

Nat'l Censorship Asked In Britain

(Continued from Page 1)

linson, MP, Minister of Education, contained the suggestion, but added that "Any system of State censorship is not desirable."

The paragraph dealing with the proposal reads:

"That the proposal for the establishment of a national censorship board appointed by the licensing authorities, with the consequent abandonment of the practice of licensing authorities to grant licenses subject to the conditions that films other than those passed by the British Board of Censorship should not be exhibited, offers a method of approaching the problem which may be of great value. It is therefore recommended that, in the light of the considerations outlined in the memorandum, the licensing authorities should be approached with a view to ascertaining whether they would assent to the establishment of such a censorship board."

Sir Sydney Harris was recently appointed president of the British Board of Film Censors.

The conference also expressed itself as being in "doubt whether in any circumstances children should be **organized** in cinema clubs on Saturday mornings, and, having regard to the fact that the Conference is informed that the Saturday morning audience of children's clubs reaches 400,000, are of the opinion that the general influence and commercial development of children's cinema clubs calls for immediate examination."

The matter of children's cinema clubs was debated in the House of Commons several months ago.

Astral Films Head Visits Ottawa

I. H. Allen of Toronto was recently in Ottawa in conjunction with the launching in Canadian theatres of the National Film Board's "Exercise Musk Ox," which feature-length film his company, Astral Films, is distributing. "Exercise Musk Ox" is the pictorial record of the long trek of the Canadian Army from Churchill to Edmonton over unexplored, snowbound territory.

Three Stars Named For Paramount Film

Geraldine Fitzgerald, titian-haired Irish beauty, has been signed as the third star with Ray Milland and Ann Todd for Paramount's first post-war film in England, "So Evil, My Love," formerly titled "For Her to See," which will be a Hal Wallis production.

At Republic Meeting

A. W. Perry, president and general manager of Empire-Universal Films, is shown with Walter L. Titus, Jr., Southern Division manager for Republic Pictures, during the recent meeting of that company's representatives in New York.

Rooney As Boxer

With surprising change of pace, Mickey Rooney is to portray a two-fisted young ring idol in "Killer McCoy" which Sam Zimbalist is to produce for MGM.

'Double Take' Cast

Franchot Tone, Janet Blair, Janis Carter and Adele Jergens have been cast in Columbia's "Double Take."

Package Deal Made By Schary, Wallis

One of the season's most important "package deals" was announced by Dore Schary and Hal Wallis whereby RKO Radio has secured from Hal Wallis Productions at Paramount the screen rights to "The White Swamp" together with Lizabeth Scott and Burt Lancaster as costars, Byron Haskin as director and Leo Tover as cameraman.

'The Good Old Days'

This crowded scene is outside the Savoy, Hamilton, an Odeon unit, where the Maynard Distributing Company's film, "The Good Old Days," played for nine days. It is booked for the Midtown and Circle in Toronto.

Three Drive-Ins Are In Prospect

(Continued from Page 1)

a number of others have been announced.

In Toronto two drive-in theatres are in prospect. Canadian Drive-In Theatres has asked the township council of Scarboro, Queen City suburb, for a permit to establish a $125,000 open-air movie and in North York Herbert Oaks, representing a Cleveland drive-in syndicate, obtained the approval of property owners for a proposed location.

A drive-in theatre to accommodate from 800 to 1,000 cars has been suggested to the Edmonton council by Herbert W. Knowles. The Recreation Commission will consider the matter.

Work will start soon on a new theatre for Harriston, Ontario, according to Jim Watier, former proprietor of the local hotel. In Ottawa 20th Century Theatres will erect a 350-seat auditorium next to its 806-seat Elgin and its policy will likely be one of art and foreign films. Odeon Theatres may now proceed with its Brantford theatre, the WPTB having ruled against the objections of the present occupants of the site.

Erection of a 300-seat theatre in Oxbow, Saskatchewan, will start soon for Gordon B. Ward, operator of Palladium there. Also due for an early start is a 400-seater in Lake Cowichan, BC.

Famous Players desires to hold movie exhibitions in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Saint John's, Newfoundland, to replace the Capitol, which was destroyed by fire. Alterations are proposed but there is some objection as to the condition of the premises.

Canada's leading circuit will spend large sums for extensive improvements in a number of its houses. The Capitol, Prince Rupert, BC, will be remodelled to the extent of $40,000 and the enlargement and renovation of the Palace, Cornwall, Ontario, will require $135,000. Work on the company's Metropolitan, Winnipeg, has been deferred for a year.

Buys 'Walls Between'

Producer Benedict Bogeaus has acquired the screen rights to "The Walls Between," a best-selling novel of the past year by Elsie Oakes Barber.

'Silver River' Set

"Silver River," an original story and screenplay by Stephen Longstreet, author of "Stallion Road," has been placed on Owen Crump's production schedule at the Warner Studio to follow "Night Unto Night," which is now being edited and scored.

Typodermic Injections

Poll Winners Thank You

Throwaways

In town looking for deals was H. A. Spanuth, gm of Film Studios of Chicago, which company produces the "Woman Speaks" series . . . Ben Washer of the Goldwyn office was here and looked at the new Fairlawn, where TBYOOL will roadshow at $1.20 tops . . . F. H. Gallop has succeeded Tom Montague as manager of Odeon's Ottawa Avalon . . . Ace Theatre, up Danforth way, is getting a beauty treatment . . . Gordon Sinclair, reports Margaret Aitken in the Tely, goes to MGM to scribble some "Tugboat Annie" tales . . . Fellow telling about his warm welcome home after being away, got off this Goldwynism to listeners in Mickey's delicateria: "I should stay away longer and come home oftener." It must be the corned beef hashish . . . What's this talk about pocket-sized books being sold in theatres? . . . Wishful thinking is probably responsible for the rumor that a cocktail bar may occupy part of the new Biltmore theatre premises . . . Harvey Dobbs has narrated for some of Queensway's current shorts . . . John Hazza of Calgary visiting town . . . Canada, Hollywood and New York please note: Do not extend press courtesies to anyone representing themselves as being attached to Canadian Film Weekly without enquiry here first.

* * *

You May Now Swig and Sway

Don't forget about the outsize romp of Toronto's typewriter tappers, to be held in open house style at the Royal York on June 7th. Between stories your local reporters are banging out ideas on how to make their By-Line Ball an epoch of fun.

Now that the bar is no longer sinister hereabouts, you may add some alcoholic impetus to your underpinning, then slide, shuffle or step to your feet's content in the auditoriums that will serve as shin-dens for this grand hopera.

Judy O'Grady and the Colonel's Lady are sisters under the shin, so you may bring your social aunt without fear that restraint will be conspicuous by its absence. There is nothing so heartening as the democracy of the dance. And since the annual By-Line Ball interests only ladies and gentlemen, you may determine your own degree of decorum.

The boys assure me, however, that they have no intention of getting their halls into an uproar.

* * *

You Don't Have to Believe It

Is Syd Banks now with Brian Fryer's Cinema (Canada) Pix? . . . Al Troyer back with one of those Miami tans . . . Pic Pioneers met informally to talk about a picnic this summer . . . Paul Maynard to Kansas City and back . . . Peppercorn, Gruenberg and Kramer of RKO here and gone after talking about the Ned Depinet drive with Leo Devaney and Jack Bernstein . . . Reports about a dual auditorium for the Elgin, Ottawa, are not necessarily true, says Meyer Axler of 20th Centheatres . . . Observation: The stock market had made a mutter-and-beg man out of many a big butter and egg man . . . Chinese proverb: "A poor man associating with a rich man will soon be too poor to buy even a pair of britches" . . . "The Egg and I" is laying an egg at the Uptown—a golden egg . . . Politicos and parisiticos have too much control over licenses in PQ, says a Montreal Standard story . . . Ken Rolland's amateurs, soon to complete their 25th week at the Belsize, are now romping on the stage of Irv Field's Royce. Next—premiums . . . Talk around about a new Canadian production company, with some Dominion personnel as principals, preparing to shoot the story of the Bluenose off Nova Scotia . . . With the signing of the Rex, Broadway and Roxy, Regina has become almost a 100 p.c. IA city, Bill Covert reports . . . George Morrell home after a spell in the hospital . . . Ex-Torontonian Morris Goodman, Para set decorator whose recent credit was on "Blue Skies," here to visit his folks.

Bing and Bergman Thank You

We notified Ingrid Bergman and Bing Crosby about coming out on top in our annual critics' and boxoffice poll, she in the former and he in the latter. Bing replied: "Will you please convey to the exhibitors my since appreciation for their interest and loyalty." So there you are, boys and girls, and chances are that you would rather have Bing as king of the ticket wicket than any other player.

The message to Miss Bergman that her cinemagic had won the award of the professional cinema assessors brought this appreciative sentence from Joseph E. Steele: "Miss Bergman has asked me to thank you and the Canadian Film Weekly for the honor which you and the Canadian critics have bestowed on her."

That was a new one on me, since I am accustomed to having communications bear the signature of the person responsible for the letter—with customary exceptions. J. Arthur Rank, Mary Pickford, Leonard Lyons, Terry Ramsaye and even my landlord have appended their own monickers on letters to me. So I wrote Mr. Steele this acknowledgment:

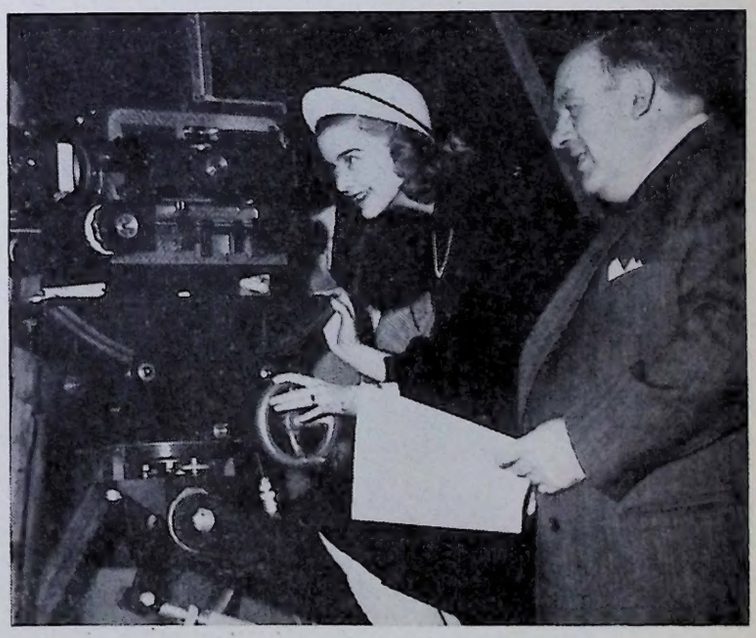
"We are appreciative of Miss Bergman's thanks and so are Canada's motion picture critics.

"May I suggest, however, that Miss Bergman, though ranked by many as the First Lady of the Theatre, is not yet a member of the Royal Family. She need not follow the practice of communicating with us through a third person, however estimable he may be.

"Although it may save time, that method is hardly suitable for use in acknowledging the finest and most representative tribute Canadian critics can give Miss Bergman. A direct acknowledgment would have served more properly.

"Nothing personal, I assure you, nor do we require anything further on the subject."

Barbara Ann and Admirer



Barbara Ann Scott, Canada's skating queen, is shown looking through a camera as Hans Tiesler, production head of Audio Pictures, guides her. Audio Pictures photographed Miss Scott in connection with the $2,121,000 Buildings and Modernization drive of the Toronto YMCA and YWCA. Hans reports that Barbara Ann, who has refused 15 Hollywood offers to date in order to continue her skating career, is personable, pretty and a grand girl.

'Way To Stars' Wins UK Poll

"The Way to the Stars," the British film of the RAF which is being distributed in Canada by United Artists and which is now in its seventh week at the International Cinema in Toronto, was selected as the top motion picture made since the end of the war by some 600,000 British movie fans in a recent poll conducted by Sidney L. Bernstein, theatre magnate. The poll, the first one conducted by Bernstein since 1937, listed six films, only one of which was made in Hollywood, that being the 1945 Academy Award-winner, "The Lost Weekend," which placed fourth. The other five were all British.

Of those recording their choices, 96 per cent thought British films had improved since 1939, but only 26 per cent would say as much for Hollywood product. It was the first poll in 20 years in which local talent and productions won over American competitors.

The British technicolor extravaganza, "Henry V," the most successful of all English films in the United States, did not finish in the top five. Its actor-producer-director, Laurence Olivier, ranked seventh among male favorites.

Margaret Lockwood eased out Ingrid Bergman and Bette Davis as the most popular actress. Barbara Stanwyck and Claudette Colbert, who were 12th and 15th respectively this time, were the only American actresses again listed among the top 20.

James Mason, who is currently appearing in a New York stage production, was accorded top spot in the best actor division.

Alan Ladd and Gary Cooper, who ranked at the head of the previous Bernstein survey in 1937, reappeared in this poll.

British-born Alfred Hitchcock, one of Hollywood's ace meggers, in first place, and nine other Englishmen monopolized the best directors competition. Frank Capra, leader in the 1937 polling, was 10th in a field of 12.

Last January, in the House of Commons, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hugh Dalton announced that £8,800,000 ($35,200,000) from the American loan was spent on Hollywood films in the second half of 1946. This represented seven per cent of total loan expenditures.

If the Bernstein survey can be accepted as a guide, Britain's leaders apparently now have the unqualified support of the movie-going public to reduce this dollar expenditure.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

Cheap Literature

From the Guelph, Ontario, Mercury

How often we read, in accounts of shooting and burglary by juveniles, that the boys themselves, their parents, and those in charge of the courts before which they are tried blame the picture shows and the cheap novels for the trouble.

There is no doubt that these agencies are blamed for many things that should never be laid to their charge. It is a very easy way to get away from lack of parental influence to say that the reading of dime novels inflamed the young mind, or a view seen at a moving picture house was responsible.

If a child wants to read, and a majority of the children do, it is as much the duty of the parents to see that they get fit books and stories as it is to make certain they are comfortably clothed. If the boys and girls were taught to have a preference for the worth-while books when they first started to read, there would soon be a big slump in the cheap novel craze.

Apart from that, however, should there not be some restraint about the sale of these five and ten-cent "horribles" to mere children? We have a board of censors appointed by the government to pass on every reel of moving picture films before the public sees it. Why should not the same care be taken in regard to the cheap novels that are offered for sale. A bad book is infinitely worse than a questionable moving picture film. In the latter the whole thing is over in a few minutes. In the case of the book the boy can carry the printed poison around in his pocket. He can read it in the secrecy of his own home, over and over again. His young and plastic mind is thoroughly saturated with the entire nastiness and plot.

The remedy is not so much in prohibiting the sale of cheap novels to minors, as in educating the child mind to want something better and non-injurious. In this, parents themselves have a large degree of responsibility that they cannot dodge. Attention to it now will probably save many pleas in the future that the boy's mind has been inflamed by the reading of books, a love for which he should never have had a chance to cultivate.

'Connecticut Yankee' To Star Bing Crosby

Bing Crosby will play the lead in Paramount's adaptation of Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court," with Tay Garnett directing. One of the year's most important productions, the picture will be filmed in Technicolor with Robert Fellows as producer, starting in the early fall.

Sam Levene Cast In RKO's 'Crossfire'

Sam Levene will play the role of the murder victim in RKO Radio's "Crossfire." He will support Robert Young, Robert Mitchum and Robert Ryan in this Edward Dmytryk-directed drama, to be produced by Adrian Scott.

"Crossfire" is the film version of Richard Brooks' "The Brick Foxhole."

WB Purchases Book

Screen rights to Gerald Butler's novel, "The Slippery Hitch," have been acquired by Warner Brothers. Story is a post-war melodrama laid in England.

To Direct Korda Pic

Daniel T. O'Shea, president of David O. Selznick's Vanguard Films, Inc., announced that Robert Stevenson is in England to direct Alexander Korda's Technicolor production of "Bonnie Prince Charlie." David Niven, who is a Scot, will star in the filming, which is scheduled to start in May.

Tony Pastor Signed

Tony Pastor and his orchestra have been signed for a feature part in the Columbia musical, "Three Blondes and a Red Head," which will be produced by Sam Katzman. Arthur Dreifuss will direct.

Para Overall Net: $44,040,000

Paramount Pictures Inc. estimates its earnings for the year (53 weeks) ended January 4, 1947, at $44,040,000 after all charges including estimated provision for taxes on income. This amount includes $4,840,000 representing Paramount's direct and indirect net interest as a stockholder in the combined undistributed earnings for the year of partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries. Earnings for the year (52 weeks) ended December 29, 1945, were $17,952,432 including $2,527,000 share of undistributed earnings of partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries.

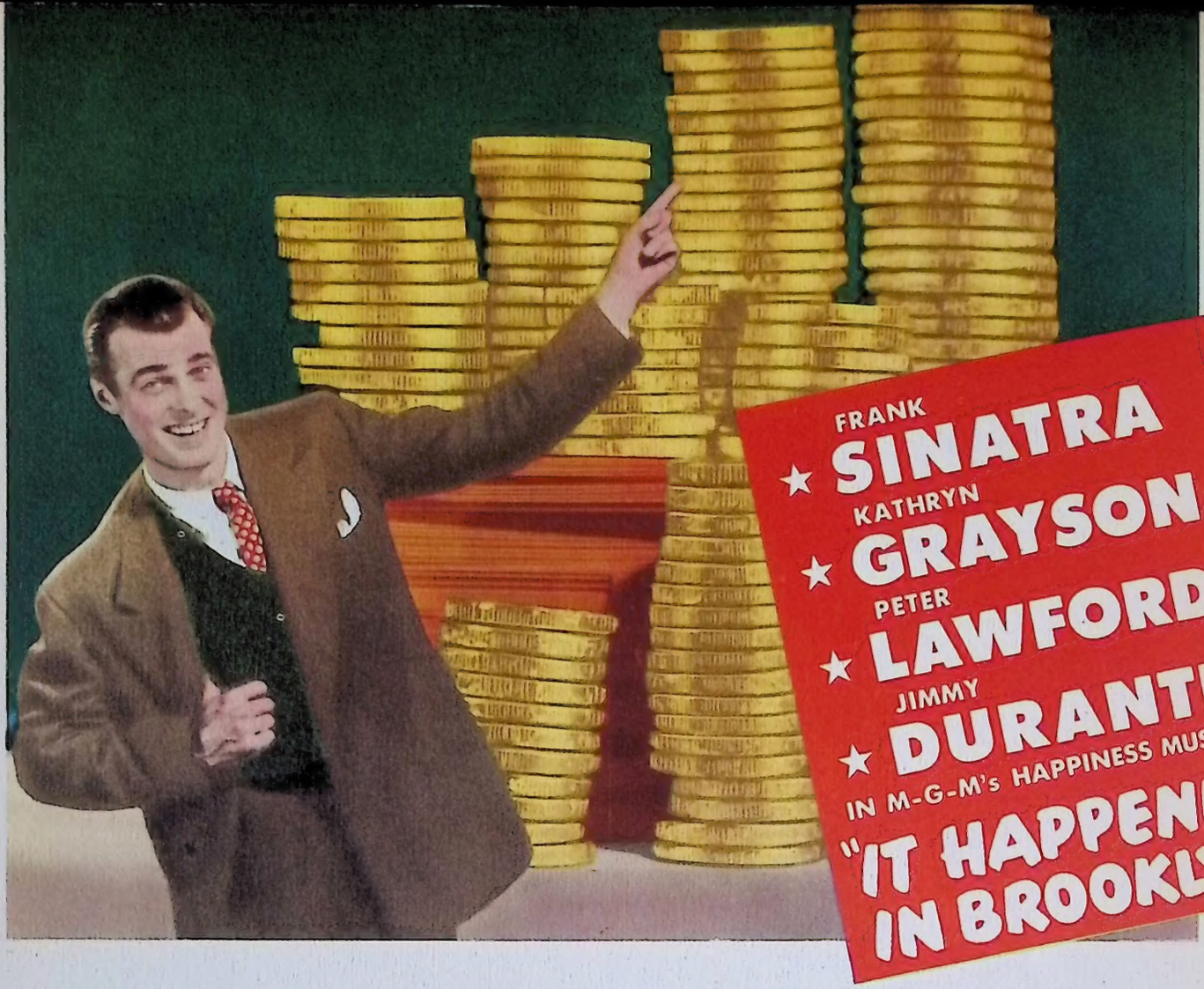
Earnings for the quarter (14 weeks) ended January 4, 1947, are estimated at $10,163,000, which compares with $4,111,000 for the corresponding quarter (13 weeks) of 1945. These earnings are after eliminating the dividends received during the period from partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries to the extent that such dividends represent distribution of earnings reported as undistributed in previous quarters.

The $44,040,000 of estimated combined consolidated and share of undistributed earnings for the year represent $5.92 per share on the 7,443,772 shares outstanding and in the hands of the public on January 4, 1947, which compares with $2.39 per share for the year ended December 29, 1945, on 7,504,272 shares, which represents the 3,752,136 shares then outstanding adjusted for the two-for-one stock split in 1946. On the same basis estimated earnings of $10,163,000 for the quarter ended January 4, 1947, represent $1.37 per share, which compares with $.55 per share for the corresponding quarter of 1945.

Third Paramount Pic Set For Bob Hope

Paramount's newest project for Bob Hope will send the comedian on a flight of fancy as star of "The Caliph of Bagdad." The film, which P. J. Wolfson will produce, will combine the settings of the ancient storybook Orient with modern times. Based on an original story, the screenplay will be prepared by Edmund Hartmann and Frank Tashlin. The picture will give Hope a heavy schedule of work for the fall after he returns to Paramount from his overseas vacation. Two other big productions, "Pale Face" and "Clown of Fortune," already have been announced for him.

IT HAPPENED IN BROOKLYN
I LOVE YOU XXX



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LITHO U.S.A.

Can. Spy Probe Basis For Movie

That Canada's spy probe will be the basis for a motion picture was indicated recently by Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production at 20th Century-Fox. "This is the greatest scenario I have ever read in my life," commented Zanuck on thumbing through the voluminous report of the Royal Commission on Soviet espionage in the Dominion.

Tentatively titled "The Iron Curtain" the film is scheduled for production this summer and will be in semi-documentary style, similar to "The House on 92nd Street," "13 Rue Madeleine" and "Boomerang." Like these films, it will be photographed in the actual locales, Toronto and several eastern USA industrial cities sharing location sites.

In a telegram to Zanuck, the Council for Canadian-Soviet Friendship protested the making of the film and said it hoped he would reconsider as it "could only embitter needlessly relations with the USSR and hinder the work of the United Nations." The Council also stated that the report itself is "a discredited document unworthy of serious treatment since seven of those accused have been acquitted in court and other cases are pending."

Star in 'Whiplash'

Alexis Smith and Dane Clark star in Warners' "Whiplash."

Triangle Signs Sirk

Triangle Producing Organization, which is headed by Mary Pickford, Buddy Rogers and Ralph Cohn, has signed Douglas Sirk to direct the group's first 1947 film, "Sleep, My Love."

MGM Will Release 'State Of The Union'

For the first time since "Gone With The Wind" MGM will release an outside company's production, "State of the Union," starring Spencer Tracy. Negotiations have just been completed between MGM and Liberty Films, Inc., for release of producer-director Frank Capra's forthcoming production, to be filmed under the Liberty banner on the MGM lot. Samuel J. Briskin is executive producer for Liberty Films.

Capra, now working on the screen play of the Lindsay-Crouse stage success with writer Anthony Veiller, plans to put the production before the cameras in early summer, as soon as Tracy completes his role in "Cass Timberlane."

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Frost's Views On Pix For Children

"We have found that when we get pictures designed for children only, the children don't want to go to them and often the parents don't want to either," was the reply given recently in the Ontario legislature by Leslie M. Frost, Provincial treasurer, to a query by F. O. Robinson, CCF—Port Arthur. Robinson had asked if it would not be possible to have suitable children's films shown uniformly at all theatres in the province on Saturday afternoons.

Frost stated that the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection branch of his department had learned that much about child psychology. He also added, "The IODE suggested we have a child psychologist, but the difficulty is that child psychologists differ in their points of view, too. The IODE withdrew its request and there has been pretty much 100 per cent satisfaction.

"Last year we decided to segregate the pictures and mark some of them 'For Adults Only' and not mark any for the children. The safeguard there is parental control. Many members of this legislature may differ over what pictures are suitable for children, so we decided to mark certain ones for adults only and leave the rest up to the parents."

He observed that there had been less than half a dozen complaints in thousands of pictures.

RKO Buys 'Set-Up'

RKO has purchased "The Set-Up," blank verse narrative poem of prize-fighting, written by Joseph Moncure March.

MacCunn Re-elected MPSC President

Angus MacCunn of Famous Players was re-elected president of the Musical Protective Society of Canada at a meeting which marked the 20th anniversary of the organization.

Other officers are: Vice-president, Ralph Haffey, Hotel Association of Canada; secretary-treasurer, Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the board of directors of the Canadian 16 Mm. Distributors Association; assistant-secretary, E. H. Wells, Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association.

Other directors: George Peters, Odeon Theatres; Elwood Hughes, Canadian National Exhibition; T. A. Evans, Broadcasters Association; Harry Sedgwick, CFRB; W. R. Ostrom, Dominion Sound; H. A. Peters, King Edward Hotel; and A. H. Jolley, Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario.

TOM COURTNEY

New head of publicity for Nova Scotia, he was formerly Maritimes supervisor for Odeon Theatres.

Babe Ruth Movie

Negotiations are under way by Republic to make a movie based on the life of Babe Ruth.

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Screenplay by JOHN HOWARD LAWSON
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